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"WHAT THOU SEEST, WRITE—AND SEND UNTO THE—CHURCHES"
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From the American Baptist Magazine.

THOUGHTS ON PIETY,

The means of fervent piety. The obstacles created before have been, these many years, gradually undermining our piety, and resisting our growth in holiness. Let now the whole process be reversed; and we may hope religion will again reign supreme in our hearts. We must go again to that neglected Bible. Our spirits must learn to glow with David's, when we read the prophetic, the penitential, and the commemorative psalms. Our lips must respond to the emotions of a hallowing heart, touched like Isaiah's with a hallowing coal from the altar of heaven. We must become accustomed to the glorious views the evangelical prophet teaches us to entertain, and look steadily on the magnificence of the church of Christ. And above all, if our piety is to become ardent, we must be in familiar with the holy gospels and the epistles. There Jesus is exhibited, who died for us. Those books contain the whole rule of our lives—the example we are to follow—the consolations we are to look for—and the charter of our mansion in heaven. There shine all the glories of the cross of Christ. The burning visions of all former ages are there realized. The splendors of the gospel dispensation there take their rise. The beauties of the New-Jerusalem are there described. We find there the story of—"that our Saviour did for our redemption, and to give us an example that we should walk in his steps. There we have the record of the labors of his apostles, and of the early spread of Immortal's kingdom. Paul writes often with the holy eloquence, the angelic fire, the noble sublimity of the third heavens. With a pen guide by inspiration, he makes known the glories yet to be revealed. And while we listen to his appeals, if our hearts are not dead, we shall be moved. If our feelings can be kindled, they will be kindled there. But if the word of God is insufficient to lead us to fervency in religion, how can we imagine ourselves following the Lamb's?

Another means of fervent piety is a return to our spiritual classics—Baxter, and Doddridge, and Owen, and men of like energy. Their writings seem almost inspired. There is a character about them, which scarce ever appears in the books of modern days. Men now address us as if they were of ourselves. Baxter, and his kinred spirits, seem in a manner like beings of another sphere—like angels from heaven, taking to us of duty and glory. A kind of spell always comes over us, when we read their looks—it is the spell of their piety. Their mantle seems thrown about us. Our connexion with the surrounding world seems cut off; and we feel ourselves in communion with glorified ones. If then, we would be more ardently pious, let us yield ourselves up to that blessed communion. Let us suffer our spirits to be bound in that holy spell; and we shall soon find a permanent change wrought in our characters.

We must watch, too, our own minds; and see what leads us to the most devotional frames. This will depend upon our various mental conformations. One reads a paragraph in the "Saints Rest;" and his soul glows within him. Another is best excited by the biography, or the journal of some holy man, as Payson, or Edwards, or Brainerd. A third reads or sings a few verses of a hymn; and while his spirit holds communion with the spirit of the poet, and his voice rises in melody, he feels himself almost transported to the very heavens, where he can bow down at once before God, and in meekness his respects by prayer and supplication. This was the case with Cotton Mather, and the ardor of his piety is sufficiently attested by the record of his life.

If we have found by experience, that a very frequent attendance on the public means of grace has had the effect to dissipate our feelings, and unfit us for private communion with God, we must consent to stay at home. The solitary chamber may look to us almost as uninviting as the cell of a monk; and our gay imagination may attract us to the crowded assembly, and to the music of the choir and the organ; but if those public exercises have not formerly brought us into a holy frame, let us forego the pleasure. We will urge our mind to the duty of holy meditation. We will compel ourselves to serious, protracted thought. There is reason in this; for without it, fervent piety is out of the question. And there is encouragement in it; for in that secret chamber, and in those devout exercises, we may meet with God. Our spirits may hold blessed intercourse with the Angel of the Covenant; and we may then go in the strength of the Lord God for many days.—All religious means are designed to promote the growth of piety. If one kind of self-discipline, or the use of one class of means seems better adapted to our peculiar character than another, we are bound to regulate ourselves accordingly. If attendance on public lectures two or three evenings in the week is, in reality, less profitable to our souls than those same evenings spent in ardent longings after God, fervent prayer and meditation, and the reading of some book of devotion, in our secret retirements, then it is our duty to absent ourselves from those assemblies.

It cannot be doubted that most Christians might spend much more time than they do in exercises of devotion. Oh! if the walls of the Roman governor in the van—the malefactors—and the affectionate women, who follow,

would many of them give of the negligence of those Christians in prayer! Probably, there are many among us, whose piety is not doubted, nor their regard for duty questioned; who put off the ever blessed God with a supplication of three or five minutes, twice in a day—read half a dozen verses at random in his precious word; and trust for any further devotions, to their ejaculations, as they are about their secular concerns. And yet these same individuals are wont to complain among their friends of their low state of piety, and the dimness of their evidences! Preposterous idea! Oh when will Christians learn to do their duty; and look, only in the way of duty, for the consolation of the children of God?

It would vastly aid our piety to do all our reading with reference to this one result, as of reads. He tries to make every book, every newspaper-paragraph the key to piety, and every volume the key to salvation. Professional men, who understand their duty, lay the whole creation on let contribution to make them useful in their profession. So too, the Christian should make every book, every conversation, every item of intelligence, all he learns and all he hears, promotive of his piety. This was the custom of Cotton Mather. Examples are cited in his life which seem almost incredible, of the manner in which he turned every thing to some spiritual benefit. When such men come to account to their Lord for the talents he has bestowed, we need not be surprised at the sentence—"Well done, good and faithful servant!"

It will not be improper here to advert to fasting, as a religious duty. In this, each of us must consult his own constitution and circumstances. But every one who has read the biographies of the holiest men, has noticed how highly they esteem fasting, as a means of spiritual improvement. How have their souls glowed with angelic fervor! How like men from the third heavens have we uniformly found them, at the close of those consecrated days! As we read the notices of those sacred seasons, we seem to be almost in the society of the Holy Ghost himself; and it costs us an effort to come down again to the duties of earth. Multitudes, in our day, esteem fasting a very foolish mortification of the flesh; but give me the holy dove note, that usually springs from a day thus yielded up to unbroken communion with heaven; and I ask for no popularity on earth. I seek no honor below the skies.

Another means of promoting fervent piety is serious meditation on our mortality. Earth is not our home. We are every moment approaching our eternal state. Each pulsation lessens the number of pulsations that shall follow; and every pleasure brings us nearer a state of endless retribution. How shall we think, on our death-beds, of the manner in which we have spent these days of health and vigor? How when we stand at the judgment-seat, surrounded by myriads of piercing eyes, and exposed to the burning, searching vision of God,—when we are to be almost in the society of the Holy Ghost himself; and an it costs us an effort to come down again to the duties of earth. Multitudes, in our day, esteem fasting a very foolish mortification of the flesh; but give me the holy dove note, that usually springs from a day thus yielded up to unbroken communion with heaven; and I ask for no popularity on earth. I seek no honor below the skies.

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If we have found by experience, that a very

would weeping. Witness the terrors of the scene, when the Lord of life gave himself a ransom for you; and then, can you feel it a matter of little importance, whether you are eminently holy or not? Oh! if our bosoms are capable of gratitude, we shall feel our duty. Here, here is the grand basis of Christian obligation. The cross furnishes those omnipotent motives, which those who yield themselves to the guidance of the Holy Ghost cannot resist. When a friend confers on us a favor of unspeakable magnitude, we esteem it a duty to consult his feelings, and gratify all his desires. If he but breathe a wish—the slightest breathing is taken up, as the sign that we are to exert every power, and task ourselves to the utmost, till that wish is fulfilled. Jesus most ardently desires, in every one of his people, fervent piety. He has not breathed that desire merely; he has made it stand out in capital prominence in every page

written. There is, further, a blessed Sanctifier, whose agency is indispensable, in preparing us for heaven. By his sweet, constraining influences, the calls of mercy were rendered effectual to draw us to Christ. He has borne with all our waywardness thus far; he has ever watched over our pathway; he has recalled us from our wanderings; he has made intercession for us in heaven; and has been assiduously training us up for glory. The Holy Spirit, then, may well expect of us fervent piety. He may look for a soul, kindling with holy desire, as we go to the place of secret prayer; and a heart, breathing after God, as we enter his earthly sanctuary. We are the temples of the Holy Ghost. When our bosoms pour forth holy aspirations, those very aspirations are but the voice of the Spirit within us. The apostle says, "because you are sons, God hath sent forth the spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." It is then not we that speak; but the Holy Ghost, that speaketh in us. And every obligation of love and gratitude, and deep reverence requires us to cultivate fervent piety. Our duty to an unconverted world demand it. Multitudes judge of religion by the conduct of its professors. Instead of going to the word of God and learning what Christians ought to be, they see what they are. Oh! how often is Jesus thus wounded in the house of his friends! How often is the blessed Son of God brought into dishonor among the creeping reptiles of earth! How often do they accuse that sun of the whole system of being dark and unlovely, because his professors admire him? And they see what they are.

Another means of promoting fervent piety is serious meditation on our mortality. Earth is not our home. We are every moment approaching our eternal state. Each pulsation lessens the number of pulsations that shall follow; and every pleasure brings us nearer a state of endless retribution. How shall we think, on our death-beds, of the manner in which we have spent these days of health and vigor? How when we stand at the judgment-seat, surrounded by myriads of piercing eyes, and exposed to the burning, searching vision of the world? The question must now be settled that God is sovereign, and that his kingdom will prevail. The world must have demonstration, that his followers are not hireling slaves, who fight for a master whom they abhor; but willing and joyful soldiers, whose glory is to assert the cause of such a governor. As the Christian hosts march into the conflict, the world must see that they are what they profess to be—a single, united phalanx, bound together by a love to one another, which nothing can divide; and by a common affection for their leader, which nothing will indeed be mighty. The proof must now be shown that their armor is of heavenly temper, and that their mail is the panoply of God. The question must now be settled that God is sovereign, and that his kingdom will prevail. The world must have demonstration, that his followers are not hireling slaves, who fight for a master whom they abhor; but willing and joyful soldiers, whose glory is to assert the cause of such a governor. As the Christian hosts march into the conflict, the world must see that they are what they profess to be—a single, united phalanx, bound together by a love to one another, which nothing can divide; and by a common affection for their leader, which nothing will indeed be mighty. The proof must now be shown that their armor is of heavenly temper, and that their mail is the panoply of God. The question must now be settled that God is sovereign, and that his kingdom will prevail.

But in order to be fervent, piety must have a deep and solid foundation. There are, in our days, quite too many Christians, who seem to imagine occasional temporary excitements, sprung from awaked restlessness, piety enough for them. They are ready to despise the pure, deep well-spring, which, in others, flows on steadily and smoothly, because it has none of those whirlpools and eddies, in which they delight. But this is unreasonable. Man is an intellectual being; and his piety must be based on the solid foundation of the understanding. It must be permanent as the air we breathe; and not like those floating vapors, which are ever changing. It must re-embrace, not the beautiful, and failing radiance; but the sun shining in his strength, from morning till evening. Though clouds and storms may gather, and tempest roar, yet when the elemental strife is done, piety must still be found, like the sun, smiling beyond the rent clouds, in all its native grandeur. Piety, resting on the affections merely, is never fervent piety. It is not that ever glowing source of honor to God, and comfort to the Christian, which religion, in all cases, ought to be. As well might you call the flash of lightning, permanent brightness; or the oscillations of the firefly, fixed star in the midnight heavens.—No; piety, in order to be ardent, must be fed from an unfailing source. It must always be kept burning, like the fire on the altar; and the heat must become so unconquerable, that every thing within its influence shall feel. The most unpropitious materials must be at once melted down under its energy; and even the water and stones of the altar on which it burns, must minister to its support. To change the figure, piety must not be a parasitic plant, drawing its nourishment from a stealthy reliance on surrounding shrubs; but striking its own roots deep into the soil, and selecting nourishment for itself from an original source, it must resemble the strong oak; growing ever more wide and deep rooted, and ever advancing higher towards heaven. While it is surrounded by the commotions of nature, it must still stand firm and un-

shaken, till called to flourish under a brighter sky, and to expand its beauties in a more congenial clime. If it cannot grow luxuriantly, it must grow as well as it can; like the more hardy exotics, which, though they advance slowly in our northern regions, finally attain to maturity.

IV. The results of fervent piety. We might recount the blessed effects on the world, of fervent piety in Christians. We might describe the golden days that would smile on the earth, and tell what a paradise this lower creation would be. We might imagine the joyful state of things, when God would again converse intimately with the sons of men, and angels would be their companions. All the visions of Isaiah, and of the favored exile on Patmos, might be brought again to notice; and we might try to realize the holy tranquility of earth, when the tabernacle of God dwells with men. We might every tongue full of the phrases of increased exertion. We might tell of the spirit of increased exertion that would spring up in the church, when every man should feel the value of souls, and the need of uniting efforts for the conversion of the world. We might paint before our minds the Christian in the closet, praying—"thy kingdom come"—the Christian in the banking house, giving his tithes to God—and the Christian in a heathen land, with a crowd of anxious converts, listening to the words of life and salvation from his lips. We might see in our vision a church of the Most High, adorning every hill and every valley, filled with a throng of devout and worthy worshippers. There would be no heart untuned to the exercises of praise, and no voice, which would not join the song—"To him that hath loved us." Every man, woman and child, would be a sincere and happy Christian. And in the rapid process of translation to heaven, each would leave with tripling the praises of earth for the nobler worship before the throne. The top-tone of the spiritual building would soon be brought in with shouting, and all the gems of the upper world would be set in their appropriate places. Then the page would be unraveled. We should know the meaning of those oracles, which have always attracted our wonder. We should comprehend all with saints, the length, and breadth, and height, and depth, of the love of Christ. We should see that love exemplified in the myriads of the saved. We should feel it glowing in our own bosoms, as we lifted the song of triumphant adoration. We should rejoice in it forever and ever.

Oh! how would the heathen, in his darkness, reproach us, if he knew how easily and how speedily we might let in the light upon him!—And if we love mankind, as we love ourselves, how soon should we become eminent Christians. Fervent piety is the mainspring of exertion—piety, taking its rise from the wonders of the cross, sustained by that Saviour who redeems us, and perfected by the sanctifying Spirit.—Facts, on every side, bring us uncontested evidence that this is true. Have not men of the most devoted piety always been most active in the cause of human welfare—and above all, in the cause of Christian missions? Oh! what a flame glowed in the bosom of Henry Martyn! How his spirit panted after God, day by day, till he entered into his rest! Who does not know that Brainerd was a man of most devoted holiness; so that Brainerd and piety have become almost interchangeable terms? I need not here cite a long list of living witnesses to show that the missionaries of the cross are eminently holy men. It is this—their fervent piety—that sustains them amid discouragement and conflict, the crosses of distance from friends, destitution often of the comforts of life, and want of all that makes our days so pleasant. Oh! they look often and steadily to the throne of God. They catch the sweet illuminations of heaven, and their bosoms burn with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Their piety urges them to the work—piety sustains them in its toils; and with the pious they will receive an eternal reward. And the conversion of the world would infallibly be in a short time effected, if every Christian, like them, would do the utmost of his duty

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tinent, (the Indians,) on plates and deposited in the earth and kept concealed in the earth of the Lord, till the fulfilment of its time, which has been accomplished; and to prove that Joseph Smith is that wonderful prophet, to whom these marvellous plates and their profound mysteries should be revealed, they recite the 29th chapter of Isaiah, saying that the prophet Smith is that unlearned man, to whom the book was given, to read, and he said, I cannot, for I am not learned! But this difficulty was soon removed by the spirit which came upon him, and blessed him with the gift of tongues. The Book then was clearly opened to his understanding, and he translated it to one of the witnesses, who wrote it in our language. Thus according to the 37th chapter of Ezekiel, say they, the sticks there spoken of (the Mormon book and our Bibles) are become one, in the hand of the prophet Smith; or shall, when our Bible shall be rightly translated by him, under the outpouring of his holy spirit, and its directions. Every person, who tells them that he wishes to forsake sin, is, without further ceremony, taken by the Elder, and baptized for the remission of his sins; this now told that he shall soon receive the spirit; this being accomplished, the Elder lays his hands on him, and imparts to him his holy spirit, which they say they then feel immediately, and know that it is the truth. The Elder now sings to the new converts, consecrating songs of their own composition [composing], and to them he reads prophecies about giving their possessions to the Bishop's feet, he places it in the store, and they lose sight of it forever; their store-keeper will not trust them for a single dollar, though he willingly gives credit to others.

If the brotherhood is once taken, and any should choose to leave them, he must go out empty, however much he had deposited in the Treasury. Much is said among them about the Holy Ghost being given, by the laying on of the Elder's hand, about prophecying, healing the sick, and the interpretation of tongues; all this however they carefully avoid, saying that these things can only be done, when they are in the spirit, which perhaps but seldom happens in this land of pilgrims; since no miracles have been done here at any time by them, though greatly needed, and they have been abundantly pressed to it. They eat, they drink, are sick, and die, as all others do. When they are sick, unfortunately, they have not faith to be healed. Of the dying they say, their work is done, they must go; they also say, it is self-evident that disease is the natural effect of unbelief. If this be true, I am sure their faith cannot be as large as a mustard seed, for none are more liable to sickness, and all contagions than themselves, the cholera not excepted, even among their preachers. Perhaps when their Christ comes, and brings their old Apostles and saints, some of them may profess more power and faith than these, that are already here; if this should not be so, I shall finally despair of seeing miracles done by them.

Although they have prophesied, the graves have not yet opened; the bones are yet dry, nor are they yet collecting; we have heard no noise in the valley; we know some have professed, but nothing is moved; if others have spoken to the winds they have not obeyed them; there are no symptoms of life among the slain; all these things continue, just as they were.

Let none be anxious, or burn with desire, to set their faces for the mount (or rather I would say for the Valley Zion,) of the west, supposing they will see the Lord in person, for he is not here; nor will they live more holy, more free from temptation, or sin, in this land of pilgrims, than any other place. Let me say once for all, that if any come hither, whether they expect it or not, they will be sure to meet all if not more than all, the difficulties that emigrants to other new countries meet. Of these the Mormons have their share.

Dear brethren, while evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived, whose coming is after the working of Satan, in all power, signs and lying wonders, whom the Lord will consume, with the breath of his mouth, and destroy by the brightness of his coming; let us remember the appropriate admonition of the good old apostle of our Lord; Be ye therefore steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Though earth should be removed, and the mountains should melt, let no Christian fear, for strong is the Lord, in whom we have trusted; and he is yet able to deliver us; to him we may look from the furnace of affliction, from the lion's den, and from the mountains of the leopards. To us he has also said, as I live, so shall ye live with me, for by his power we are kept through faith unto salvation; and as we are passing through all the obstructions of the way, the exceeding great and precious promises are the staff, on the top of which we may safely lean; for they will support our fainting souls, while we are confessing, that we are but strangers and pilgrims, in the earth. How sweet the contemplation is, that our toilsome journey will soon end; and while we are struggling in the dark valley, the Lord's hand will afford us comfort, and will support us. This hope is an anchor to our souls, both sure and steadfast, entering and taking hold of Jesus within the veil. Unto this grace we have access, and here we may stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

False Christs and false prophets, our Lord told us, would come, showing signs, and wonders to deceive, if possible the very elect; perhaps they may tell us, he is in their temple or their secret chamber, but let us not believe them; if they say, he is in the desert, let us not go forth; for our Lord will not come, to dwell in temples, or in secret chambers, or deserts, but as the flash of lightning, he will come to execute judgment upon all.

Anticipate the happy moment, when your Lord, who is gone to prepare a place for you, will come again, to take you to himself; is cheering too, to reflect that death will then be lost in victory; and all our pains and suffering, in pleasures and delight; and our grief, in everlasting joy. What is so animating and cheering as the Christian's hope? It comforts him through life; by it he triumphs over death, the grave, and all its terrors; it never leaves its possessor, till he arrives in sight of his long desired home, when his eyes shall ever gaze upon the dear object of his love, who died for him, and rose again to die no more.

I am, my dear sir, most affectionately yours,

ALEXANDER EVANS.

From the Watchman.

FEMALE SAVINGS FOR MISSIONS.

In the anonymous letter which follows, and which was directed to a lady of a minister of the Gospel, and received a few days since, ten

dollars were inclosed, which will be forwarded to the Treasurer, and we hope a blessing will attend it. No vanity can be charged on the donor, as her name—though not her benevolence—is in secret. It is a question worthy of consideration, whether the Gospel doctrine of self-denial is not too much disregarded?

Dear Madam—Some time since, I went to hear a brother from the Valley of the Mississippi. In his address he spoke of an old lady, who came six miles through the wilderness to hear him preach. O thought I, there nothing I can do, so that I may have a little money to put into my box, which I have for a long time kept, for the purpose of throwing in what he squinters; facts which, while they show the necessity of having sound instructors, exhibit the secret of the efficacy of infant tuition.

VERSE PLATES.—The idea of imprinting upon the earthen ware of our tables, the living words that glow upon the pages of inspiration, and thereby furnishing our souls with their appropriate food at the same time that we nourish our bodies, was first suggested by a correspondent in the State of Mississippi. The first impression produced on our minds by the suggestion was a delightful one; and when we presented it to our brethren & sisters of the association, at our annual meeting in July, we could see that similar emotions of pleasure swelled every bosom. We should have done injustice to our correspondence, as well as violence to our own sense of obligation, had we passed over his suggestion without an attempt to test its utility. A proposition was therefore made to an importer of earthenware. Designs were immediately prepared and sent off to England, and we expect an early spring importation of Verse Plates and other crockery. Some of the designs are very beautiful, and the passages of Scripture referred to, adapted to remind us of our dependence for every blessing upon our Father's hand, and to excite emotions of gratitude and love. It is intended that one large plate shall present the plan upon which the Verse System is to be perpetuated. We recommend to our Verse friends to supply their tables with verse crockery when it shall be received in market, and we will endeavour to give them early intimation of the time and place at which it can be obtained.

LADIES' LYCEUMS.—It is our intention, during the coming summer, to pursue a systematic course of illustrations on several subjects, with direct reference to Associations of Ladies for intellectual and benevolent purposes. We shall include in this course something on Botany, Geology, and our own Systems, illustrated by

extracts from a sermon she had heard, she writes,

“O what have I done the past year for the glory of God and the promotion of his kingdom. Alas, I have been spending too much of my precious time in vanity. Often have I made resolutions (too much in my own strength probably,) that I would live more devoted to God, but alas my deceitful heart! May I now begin anew and with this year a humble walk with God. Yesterday I sat down to the communion, and thought I had something of a view of the love of Christ to sinners. May this frame of mind continue.”

The reflections she has recorded are commonly of this character; perhaps not sufficiently marked to engage the attention of your readers.

On her marriage day, November 29th, 1827, she writes, “This is a solemn yet happy day; at day I have long anticipated, yet trembled sometimes at its approach. I have this day given my hand to the dear object of my affections, Mr. H. Staples. O may we ever feel our obligations for His mercies, which have allowed us hitherto, and be enabled to devote our future lives to his service.”

A little more than a year before her death, as if in anticipation of her last year, though then in good health, she writes, “So has another year passed and I am hastening to my last year and my last day; O that I might improve the moments as they fly, and prepare to give my last account with joy.”

Her diary closes May 5th, 1832; she was then unwell and departed this life on the 10th of June last, in the 29th year of her age. Her bereaved husband writes that she died with perfect composure and resignation; with a hope full of immortality and eternal life, even to the last moment. She left an affectionate husband and two small children to mourn her loss, the youngest but five weeks old. Their loss is believed to be her eternal gain. Among the many interesting notes of sorrow which she has left on her diary, perhaps it may interest your readers to peruse the following, from Rev. N. H. delivered about five years since. The cause of which he treats was then in its infancy, but the thoughts are still useful, and may be resisted.

Oct. 12, 1826, Sunday. I have been to meeting—Mr. H. preached against the use of spirituous liquors, from Matthew, xviii, 7, 8, 9. “Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore, if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands, or two feet, to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell-fire.”

“He endeavoured to show the folly and impropriety, and uselessness of drinking spirituous liquors—

They are [said he] unnecessary in every sense of the word to persons in health. The practice of drinking them ruins the constitution, the health, the property, the character, the influence, and the soul of a man. It affects his constitution and health in the following manner. It raises a slight fever, which has the same effect as a fever produced in any other manner, or by any other cause. It crowds the blood into the head, gives the face a flush, reddens and inflames the eyes, and creates throughout the system, a constant restlessness and uneasiness. In stead of a calm, quiet state of feeling, he now experiences a continual disquiet, and renewed desire for repeated draughts. He drinks again, and again is thirsty. At first he drank but little, and that little with a mistaken idea, that it would do him good. He never had an idea of becoming a drunkard, and therefore was careful to guard against a too free use of the dangerous thing. But his caution here was his greatest enemy. If he had taken no powerful dose at first, he would have discovered its effects, and learned to avoid it altogether. But now he thinks himself safe, for he can stop when he pleases, and considers himself a temperate man.

As he continues in the habit, he finds he can drink a little more than when he commenced, and still fancies he feels better. He drinks a little oftener and he feels sometimes as happy as a king, and despises himself for once thinking he could not habituate himself to drink occasionally without becoming a drunkard. By and by his continued course overcomes him, and his head grows dizzy, his joints grow weak, a faint sickness comes across his stomach—he staggers—he falls—he is drunk.

He now finds he has disgraced himself and family,

and it is useless to try to give up the practice, and he goes on from bad to worse. He grows ill, fatigued, listless, dull, forgetful, “beastly, sensual, devilish.” He forgets his obligations to God, to himself, to his family, and to society. He seeks the company of others like himself, and grows hardened in iniquity.

The practice brings on a train of diseases, epidemics, droppings, consumption, and in fact almost every kind,

which can be named. In the midst of his days he dies and sinks to oblivion.

It ruins a person's property. Besides the unnecessary sum he spends for drink, how much valuable time does he waste in going to the tavern, or grog-shop, and in recruiting from the effects of it. In this he might have been gaining, instead of spending money. Dr. Franklin says, “time is money.”

Besides this, how much is lost through mismanagement and accidents, while he is unfit for business. Sometimes he drops his money out of his pocket, when he is under the fence, or on the grog-shop floor—sometimes it is stolen from him—sometimes he gives it away in the overflowing benevolence of his liberal heart. His business is neglected, and there is also a curse; sometimes he gets angry and beats his cattle, and hurts or kills them. Sometimes he loses or breaks his tools, when under the influence of strong drink—sometimes he injures his neighbour and is obliged to make him some compensation. Thus innumerable ways is property wasted. His character is ruined—

circumstances of worldly affluence, and pleasures of worldly company, and with naturally so great a fondness for society as led her much more frequently than is common, to social parties and amusements, was nevertheless, made an early subject of God's special grace. She was baptized by Rev. Asa Bronson, and united with the Baptist church in Stratfield.

Her diary, which I have commenced when her 14th year, (January 1st, 1818,) is principally occupied with notes of sermons which she heard from time to time, until her death. Among the first of her records of this kind, are extracts from two sermons preached near the same period from the same text, though at different places. “Heard Mr. W. preach from Matt. xxv, 10th. This being a part of the parable of the ten virgins, she dwelt much upon their character—said they were all virgins, chaste, virtuous and good, but did not continue so; not (said he) as the Antinomians would have it, once in grace always in grace, but in short that they fell from grace.” &c.

“The other preacher Mr. O. T. when preaching from this text, said, ‘The foolish virgins were not true Christians. That their folly consisted in not taking oil in their ve-sels—

in sleeping—in going to the wise to beg or buy; for had they known from whence it came, they would never have gone to their fellow creatures to obtain it. When they came after the door was shut, to beg for admittance, the Lord answered, I never knew you, nothing can be more evident than that they were not his people.’” &c.

For a child of thirteen years to notice these distinctions of character, and at her return home on each occasion to record them, exhibits an interesting feature in her mind, especially as she had not the advantages of Sabbath school instruction to induce a train of thinking, which children of that age

should have done injustice to our correspondence, as well as violence to our own sense of obligation, had we passed over his suggestion without an attempt to test its utility.

A proposition was therefore made to an importer of earthenware. Designs were immediately prepared and sent off to England, and we expect an early spring importation of Verse Plates and other crockery. Some of the designs are very beautiful, and the passages of Scripture referred to, adapted to remind us of our dependence for every blessing upon our Father's hand, and to excite emotions of gratitude and love. It is intended that one large plate shall present the plan upon which the Verse System is to be perpetuated. We recommend to our Verse friends to supply their tables with verse crockery when it shall be received in market, and we will endeavour to give them early intimation of the time and place at which it can be obtained.

THE MECHANICAL WONDERS OF A FEATHER.

Every single feather is a mechanical wonder. If we look at the quill, we find properties not easily brought together, strength and lightness.

I know few things more remarkable than the strength and lightness of the very pen with which I am now writing. If we cast our eyes upon a

material made for the purpose, used in no other class of animals, and in no other part of birds; tough, light, pliant, elastic. The pith, also, which feeds the feather, is neither bone, flesh, membrane, nor tendon. But the most artificial part of a feather is the beard, or as it is sometimes called, the vane; which we usually strip off from one side or both when we make a pen. The separate pieces of which this is composed are called threads, filaments or rays. Now, the first thing which an attentive observer will remark is, how much stronger the head of the feather shows itself to be when pressed in a direction perpendicular to its plane, than when rubbed either up or down in the line of the stem; and he will soon discover, that the threads of which these beards are composed are flat, and placed with their flat sides towards each other; by which means, while they easily bend for the approaching of each other, as any one may perceive by drawing his finger over so lightly upwards, they are much harder to bend out of their plane, which is the direction in which they have to encounter the impulse and pressure of the air, and in which their strength is wanted. It is also to be observed that when two threads, separated by accident or force are brought together again, they immediately recast. Draw your finger round the feather which is against the grain, and you break probably, the junction of some of the contiguous threads; draw your finger up the feather, and you restore all things to their former state.

COMING ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The seventeenth anniversary of the American Bible Society will be celebrated in New York on Thursday the ninth of May next; the meeting commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M.

In view of the approaching celebration referred to above, it is important that those Auxiliaries which have not made reports the present year, should do so now, by the first or the middle of April. Where a formal report cannot be sent, the secretary of each society is requested to furnish us with a letter, giving an account of their condition and prospects, and the names of their respective Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers. This is highly desirable, in order for the Managers of the Parent Society to make their report. It is feared that it will be found that many Auxiliaries which supplied their destitute families two or three years ago, have procured no Bibles or Testaments since, and that some have made little or no returns for those bought at that time on credit. It was feared by the Managers, that the great effort for the General Supply would be followed in some part of the country by a season of slumber. This fear has been too often realized.

But “now it is high time to awake out of sleep,” to procure more books, to look up the new cases of destitution, to pay old arrearages, and to aid the work of foreign distribution.—*Bible papers.*

REQUEST OF BIBLES.

An aged lady who died awhile since in the State of New York, leaving sixty-seven grandchildren and great grandchildren, tequethed each of them a Bible. Those books have since been procured and distributed. Happy would it be if this example were extensively imitated.

Such a bequest would often prove, in the end, more valuable to the recipients than thousands of gold and silver.—*Ib.*

Stratford, Feb. 1833.

DEAR BROTHER,

There has recently been put into my hands a large manuscript volume of 264 closely written pages, containing the diary of Mrs. Eliza Ann Staples, the late companion of Mr. Horace Staples, of Saugatuck. If you deem it expedient to give the following an insertion in the columns of the Secretary, they are at your service. Yours affectionately, J. H. L.

Miss Eliza Ann Hull, of Reading, afterwards Mrs. Staples, though an only child, and reared under such

circumstances of worldly affluence, and pleasures of worldly company, and with naturally so great a fondness for society as led her much more frequently than is common, to social parties and amusements, was nevertheless, made an early subject of God's special grace. She was baptized by Rev. Asa Bronson, and united with the Baptist church in Stratfield.

Her diary, which I have commenced when her 14th year, (January 1st, 1818,) is principally occupied with notes of sermons which she heard from time to time, until her death. Among the first of her records of this kind, are extracts from two sermons preached near the same period from the same text, though at different places. “Heard Mr. W. preach from Matt. xxv, 10th. This being a part of the parable of the ten virgins, she dwelt much upon their character—said they were all virgins, chaste, virtuous and good, but did not continue so; not (said he) as the Antinomians would have it, once in grace always in grace, but in short that they fell from grace.” &c.

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in sleeping—in going to the wise to beg or buy; for had they known from whence it came, they would never have gone to their fellow creatures to obtain it. When they came after the door was shut, to beg for admittance, the Lord answered, I never knew you, nothing can be more evident than that they were not his people.’” &c.

They are of no use to guard against heat or cold. It has been thoroughly proved from the actual expense of living witnesses, that they on the contrary are injurious to the health of persons constantly exposed to heat. White's conduct and reports of the workmen in the gas manufacture at Baltimore; and in the glass manufacturers at Millville, New Jersey, and other places; who refuse to touch a drop of liquor because it is hurtful to them; exposed as they constantly are to heat. When asked by Mr. H. if they suffered any inconvenience from the absence of spirituous liquors they replied that they did not, but should expect to suffer if they drank any.

They are of no use to guard against *fever*. With respect to this, a mistaken notion prevails. Dr. Rush, otherwise inclined to it, The less stimulus a person takes when exposed to fever, the less danger there will be of his taking it. Doctor Rush, of Philadelphia, states that at the time the yellow fever raged in that city to such an alarming height, he attended the hospital and private houses throughout the whole season—

recorded nearly whole sermons from memory, after her return from meeting; many of which might be interesting to the public, provided the authors were disposed to have them thus appear, in their perhaps mutilated form, as their divisions are seldom noticed. At the commencement of the year

well to the condition of his brain, nerves, and muscles. The ancients were right in the supposition that an unsound body is incompatible with a sound mind."

"Most of our present systems, (says Dr. Bliss, of N. Y.) are directed to the intellectual faculties, without any reference to the fact that the mind is incased in a body, through which is communicated every impression it receives."

"The waste of health, and strength, and life, which is daily going on among the youth of talent and high promise in every part of our land, is enough to make any intelligent observer weep."—Rev. Dr. Miller.

"Youth at most public seminaries are liable to become so effeminate, as to be rendered, without some subsequent change of habit, utterly unfit for any manly enterprise or employment. How frequently, too, do they fall victims to this ill timed system of tenderness and seclusion!"—President Ladd.

"The neglect of exercise has been the ruin of thousands of literary men, and has deprived our country of some of our richest ornaments."—Professor Seccull.

"My opinion is, that not a military individual of the above description [close students, who go through a thorough course] can be found, whose health is not impaired in some degree."—President Chaplin.

"Every fact presented by the pathology of the diseases of literary men confirms the opinion that the neglect of physical culture lies at the foundation."—Dr. Reynolds.

"Inactivity is the great bane of literary men."—*Graham on Indigestion.*

"It is the debauchery of inaction that has spread itself so extensively, and engendered so alarming an increase of dyspepsy and other chronic maladies."—*P. of the Salzman.*

"Labor or exercise is indispensably necessary to preserve the body any time in due plight."—*C. E. Z.*

"Exercise in the open air is essential to the well-being of the body."—*W. C. L.*

"Men of letters, from neglecting to take exercise, are often the most unhealthy of human beings. Even temperance is no effectual remedy against the miseries of a sedentary life, which can only be counteracted by a proper quantity of exercise and air."—*Dr. Reynolds.*

"That mental activity is promoted by bodily motion, is a matter of universal consciousness. Who has not felt the current of thought becoming motionless, and its fountain beginning to stagnate, after thinking closely for hours, and preserving the same posture of body? And who upon calling his muscles into active play, has not felt new fountains break out within himself, and fresh thought pour over the soul its living waters?"—*Weld.*

That the present system of education is perilous to morals, is proved by many testimonies.

"It is a fact that ought not to be disguised, that the morals of youth frequently become corrupted in our academies and colleges."—*Rev. Dr. Frost.*

"Idleness is the parent of every vice."—*Dr. Rush.*

It would greatly diminish the expense of education.

"The students generally pay their board by their labor; some pay all their expenses; and some do even more than this."—*Report of Maine Wesleyan Seminary.*

"The pecuniary benefit which the students receive, is the payment of their board by their labor. Some do much more."—*Report of Onida Institute.*

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"The period being now arrived at which the business of Parliament is usually resumed, I have called you together for the discharge of the important duties with which you are intrusted. Never at any time, did subjects of greater interest and magnitude call for your attention."

I have still to lament the continuance of the civil war in Portugal, which has for some months existed between the princes of the House of Braganza. From the commencement of this contest, I have abstained from all interference, except such as was required for the protection of British subjects resident in Portugal; but you may be assured that I shall not fail to avail myself of any opportunity that may be afforded me to assist in restoring peace to a country with which the interests of my dominions are so intimately connected.

I have also to regret that my earnest endeavors to effect a definitive arrangement between Holland and Belgium, have hitherto been unsuccessful."

It appears by the speech of the King of Great Britain at the opening of Parliament, that the ministry propose, in the course of the session, to enter upon the subject of church property, and the system of tithes. This, in our judgment, is one of the most difficult matters which that government can be called to examine, adjust, and reform. We have had no doubt, from the moment that it was determined that a political reform must take place, that the spirit would extend to church as well as to state. Objections, both theoretical and practical, of a serious nature, may be urged against the general ecclesiastical system, especially that part of it which relates to its revenue. The political system having passed through the furnace, and being about to show what it will be in practice, the ecclesiastical, we have no doubt, will have to take its turn, and pass through a similar ordeal. This subject will draw out the whole strength of the radical reformers in the new House of Commons.—*N. Y. Daily Advertiser.*

On Monday, the 18th of February, the Bank of England stock rose nearly 4 per cent.

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General Intelligence.

From the New York Daily Advertiser.

LATEST FROM FRANCE.

By the ship Rhone, Captain Rocket, from Havre, we have received our Paris files to the 16th and Havre to the 18th of February, containing London intelligence to the evening of the 15th, all inclusive. Our latest date from Paris is the 17th.

The most important news is that of the introduction of a reform in the Irish Church Establishment, introduced into the House of Commons by the Ministers, particulars of which will be found in a succeeding column.

PORTRUGAL.—Gen. Solignac had succeeded in his attack on the Miguelites. He lost but 80 men, and put *hors du combat* 500.

HOLLAND.—Several Dutch ships have been captured by the English.

TURKEY.—The victory gained by Ibrahim, is fully confirmed.

GREECE.—King Otho has been received with much display at Napoli di Romania.

SPAIN.—Madrid was quiet. A cordon sanitaire, of 10,000 men was prepared for the frontiers of Portugal, on account of the Cholera at Oporto. The Globe says the Spanish cabinet is favorable to an interference in Portugal.

In the House of Commons on the 12th the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced the ministry's plan of improvements and changes in the Irish Church Establishment.

PLAN FOR THE REDUCTION AND CHANGES IN THE IRISH CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.—Ten Bishopsrics to be abolished, after the death of the present incumbents, out of the 22 which at present exist. The diminution, the noble Lord stated, would produce a direct saving of £60,000 per annum, besides what would accrue from the renewal of leases, &c. The entire income of the Bishops in Ireland might, he said, be calculated at £150,000 a year, that of the Deans and Chapters at £23,000: as to the Benefices, his Lordship said that as yet he had no accurate returns, but he would set them down at £60,000; making the entire ecclesiastical income in Ireland about £3,000 per annum. He proposed to abolish the system of first fruits, now applied to the augmentation of poor livings, and to replace it by an annual per centage upon all prefe

rements of the Bishops. See to be regulated by a proper scale; those above £10,000 paying 15 per cent., those below

that income, 10 per cent.; below £6,000, 7 per cent.; and below £5,000 5 per cent.: all the proceeds of this per centage to be given to augment the incomes of the poorer clergy. Church rates, government propose to abolish altogether; Deans and Chapters likewise to be abolished, or to have the cure of souls attached to them. His Lordship then stated various other changes, both present and prospective, in connexion with the Establishment. The statement was received with much cheering, and was even approved by Mr. O'Connell. Sir R. Inglis was left, at the hour of post, warmly protesting against the intentions of government.

KING'S SPEECH.

From the London Courier, of the evening of the 5th.

This being the day appointed for the delivery of the King's speech, his majesty arrived at the House of Lords shortly before 2 o'clock, and on alighting from his carriage, was received by the Cabinet Ministers, and great officers of State.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"The pecuniary benefit which the students receive, is the payment of their board by their labor. Some do much more."—*Report of Onida Institute.*

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Ireland. Individuals could thus dispose of about a million annually. The bill is designed to arrange matters so that public works shall be taken by fair tender, and by public contract—that the rate payers assessed for these works shall have a share in the preparatory public discussions respecting them;—that special sessions, like the English, shall negative their presentment to the Grand Jury, if obnoxious or objectionable, and that a competent surveyor shall warrant the commencement and superintend the progress of public works. It also provides that the county cess shall be retained on the landowner, which will replace speculative improvements in erecting public works.

The resolutions introduced by Lord Althorp, regulating the sittings of the House of Commons, were taken up on the 20th. The first division took place for the resolution to meet at twelve at noon, and to sit till three for petitions and for private business. The resolution was adopted by 133 to 14. Another resolution for reducing the number necessary to constitute a quo rump from forty to twenty was likewise adopted, and the regulations were to go into operation on the succeeding Wednesday.

TURKEY.—It was supposed that the negotiations between Ibrahim and the Porte must have terminated favorably, but it was not absolutely known, at Vienna, on the 5th of Feb. No courier had yet come from Constantinople with the treaty between the Porte and Ibrahim, but it was thought that it could not be long before one should arrive.—*N. Y. Daily Ad.*

The south of France appears to have suffered considerably by inundations occasioned by the late storms. The road from Paris to Toulouse has been interrupted by the overflowing of the river Aveyron, over a space of 120 feet, between Reauville and Coussade. The river Garonne above Baudouin, has overflowed, its own sides of the river, several miles, and is able to reach Bordeaux. The bridge at Langon has been damaged by the rapidity of the current. On the 4th inst., the town of Figuac was assailed by a most violent storm of wind and rain, by which the small river that runs along its side was swollen to such a height, that the force of the current carried away three houses that stood on its banks, and eight persons who resided in them were lost.

The Augsburg Gazette of the 12th inst. has the following letter of the 3d ult. from Alexandria: "Yesterday, upon receiving the news of the victory gained at Koniah, and of the capture of the Grand Vizier, Mehemed Ali declared that on the arrival of the Grand Vizier, he would meet him on the beach; for, said he, Reschid is a higher functionary of the Porte than myself, and I am still its faithful vassal.—The Egyptian fleet is in this port. All the vessels are covered with flags, and are firing salutes, which are returned from the ramparts. The rejoicings are to continue for some days.

LA PLATA.—Accounts brought to Monte Video from the Falkland Islands, as is stated by the Journal of Commerce, prove that there is no danger of a contest between Buenos Ayres and the United States. The Buenos Ayres, says Kronia, who had ordered off the schr. Sun, of New London, has been ordered off by the British ship of war Clio.

CHILI.—*New Constituti on—Abolition of Slavery.*—The Mercurio, of Valparaiso, of Nov. 7, received by the New York Daily Advertiser, contains a plan for an alteration of the Constitution, which was drawn up and reported by a committee. The only material provisions of this plan which we have seen, are those which ordain that a survey shall cease to exist, that the freedom of the press is to be subject to the control of courts and juries only, and that the Roman Catholic faith is declared to be the religion of the republic, to the exclusion of the public exercises of every other. Money bills are to originate with the Deputies; amendments of the Constitution with the Senators; and nominations to office with the President. The convention were engaged in the discussion of this plan.

CHOLERA AT HAVANA.—A gentleman, a passenger in the Alabama, informs us, that he had seen a letter from Mr. Shaler, our Consul at Havana, which mentions that the cholera was making dreadful havoc among the slave population principally, taking off 200 a day.

The Evening Post mentions letters from Havana, to the 10th, which confirm this account.—*N. Y. Daily Ad.*

LOWER CANADA.—A member of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada has been imprisoned, for reflecting on the character of the Speaker, by a publication in the Quebec newspaper. The members have been much excited against the Governor for his refusing to sign a warrant for a new election to replace a member from Montreal, who had been released.

COL. TARTLETON.—Recent English papers mention the death of this officer, so active in the South during the revolution. He lived near Liverpool.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—We remark the following decision on of Judge Martin, of Norfolk county, Mass., via the rail-road, for passengers leaving Philadelphia immediately after the arrival of the New-York boat, if this arrangement those who leave Baltimore at six o'clock in the morning, may arrive at Baltimore at about eleven o'clock the same evening, and those who leave Baltimore in the evening, will reach Philadelphia in time for the six o'clock boat to New-York.

INTELLIGENCE.—*Interest of Travellers.*—We are informed by the Philadelphia papers, that early next month, the Citizens' Line will start an evening boat for

